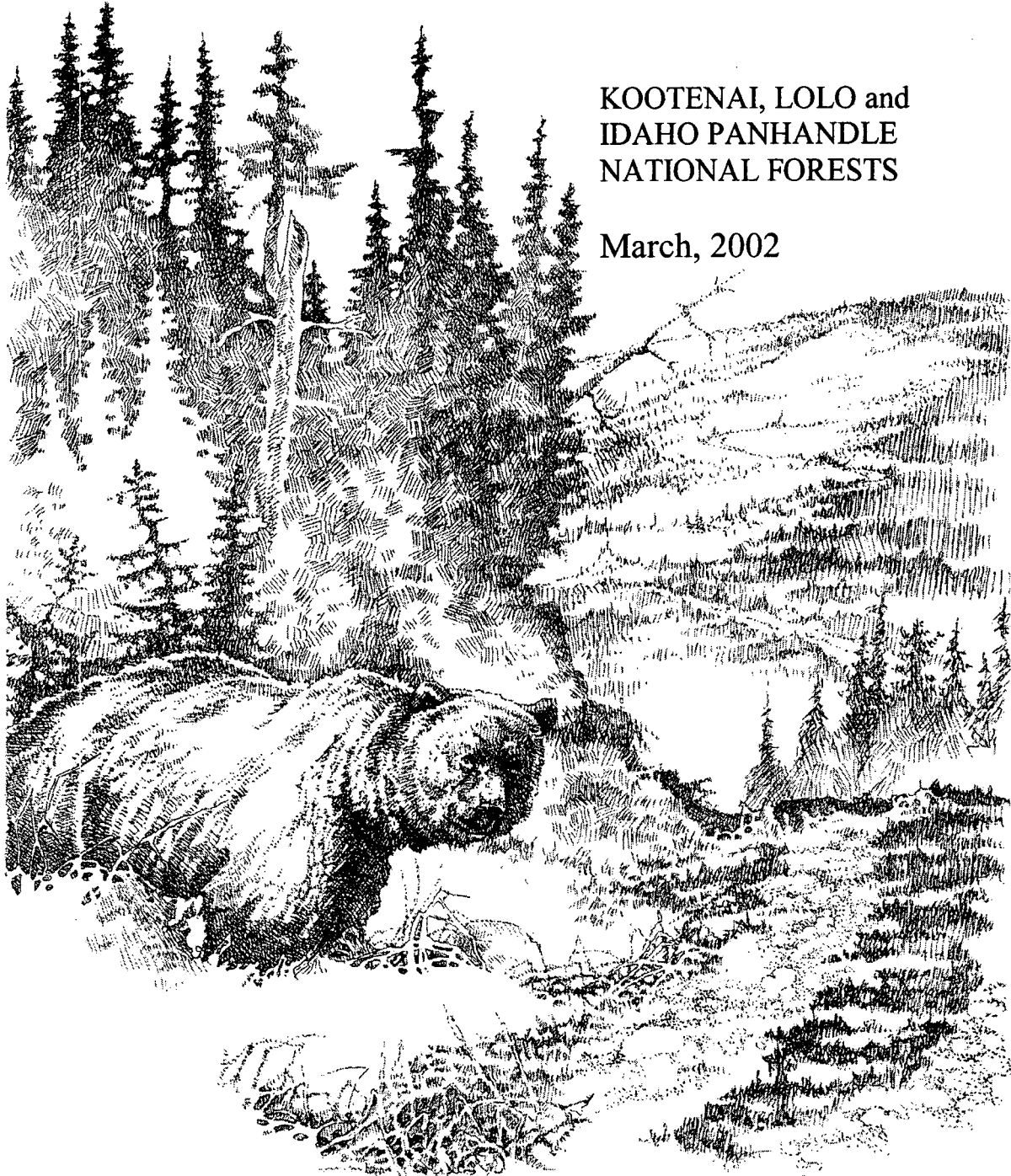


FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOREST PLAN AMENDMENTS

for
MOTORIZED ACCESS MANAGEMENT WITHIN THE
SELKIRK AND CABINET-YAAK GRIZZLY BEAR RECOVERY ZONES

KOOTENAI, LOLO and
IDAHO PANHANDLE
NATIONAL FORESTS

March, 2002



SUMMARY

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Artwork created by Frank Kujawa, Fortine Ranger District.

Summary

This programmatic Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) proposes to change the Kootenai, Lolo, and Idaho Panhandle National Forests Land and Resource Management Plans (Forest Plans) by amending the objectives, standards, and guidelines that address grizzly bear management within the Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak Recovery Zones.

Planning for units of the National Forest System involves two levels of decision-making. The first level, often referred to as programmatic planning, is the development or amendment of Forest Plans that provide management direction for resource programs, uses, and protection measures. Forest Plans and associated amendments are intended to set out Management Area prescriptions or decisions with goals, objectives, standards, and guidelines for future decision-making through site-specific planning. The environmental analysis accomplished at the Plan Amendment level guides resource management decisions and aids the next level of site-specific planning.

The second level of planning involves the analysis and implementation of management practices designed to achieve goals and objectives of the Forest Plan. This is commonly referred to as site-specific or project-level planning. It requires relatively detailed information that includes the location, condition, and current uses of individual roads and trails, and the identification of when and where individual roads and trails will be open or closed to various types of use. This step is most often accomplished at the ranger district (local) level.

It is important for the reader to note that this FEIS and subsequent Record of Decision (ROD) will not prescribe site-specific access management decisions within the Recovery Zones. This analysis examines the effects of setting various levels of human access within the Recovery Zones. The decision to change the status of a specific road or trail will be proposed through project-level analyses and decisions.

Site-specific decisions on individual roads and trails will be proposed through future project-level planning. These proposals will require public notification and will seek public input for identification of issues and concerns and development of alternative actions. This FEIS and ROD will not be directly authorizing any specific action; rather, they will identify and select a programmatic action which sets standards for implementation of site-specific proposals. Site-specific access related decisions made through previous NEPA analyses and with completed US Fish and Wildlife Service consultation will not be affected by this programmatic decision. The decision on these Forest Plan amendments will not require reconsultation on previous decisions for access or resource management projects. The standards set in this decision apply to all future site-specific decisions regarding access management in the Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak grizzly bear recovery zones (as described in the Analysis Area).

This summary document introduces information such as the location, purpose and need, connected and cumulative actions, decision to be made, the scope of the decision, proposed action, issues, alternatives, and a comparison of effects by alternative. More detailed information is included in the FEIS. The document can be viewed or printed from the IGBC website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/wildlife/igbc/scy/amendments.htm>.

Printed copies of the FEIS can be requested by mail from the Forest Supervisor's Office, Kootenai National Forest, 1101 US Highway 2 West, Libby, MT 59923 or by telephone at 406-293-6211.

It is anticipated that a decision on these proposed amendments will be documented in a ROD and released in May 2002.

Forest Plan Management Direction

The Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, and their implementing regulations, provide direction for the development of Forest Plans. As part of the forest planning process, three individual Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) were developed, which considered alternatives for the future management of land and resources managed by the Kootenai, Lolo, and Idaho Panhandle National Forests. Each EIS identified a preferred alternative which served as the basis for development of the three Land and Resource Management Plans (Forest Plans). The Records of Decision implementing the Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle Forest Plans were signed in September 1987, with the Lolo Forest Plan signed in April 1986.

Location

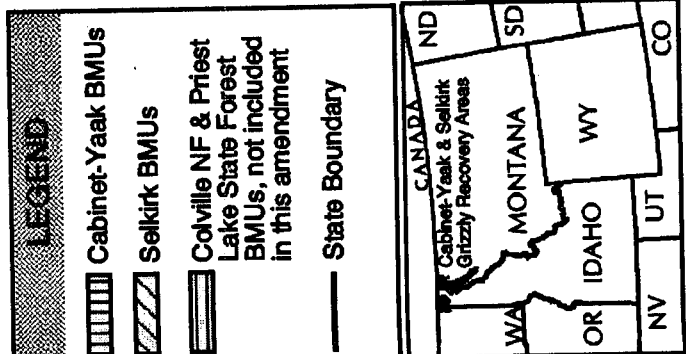
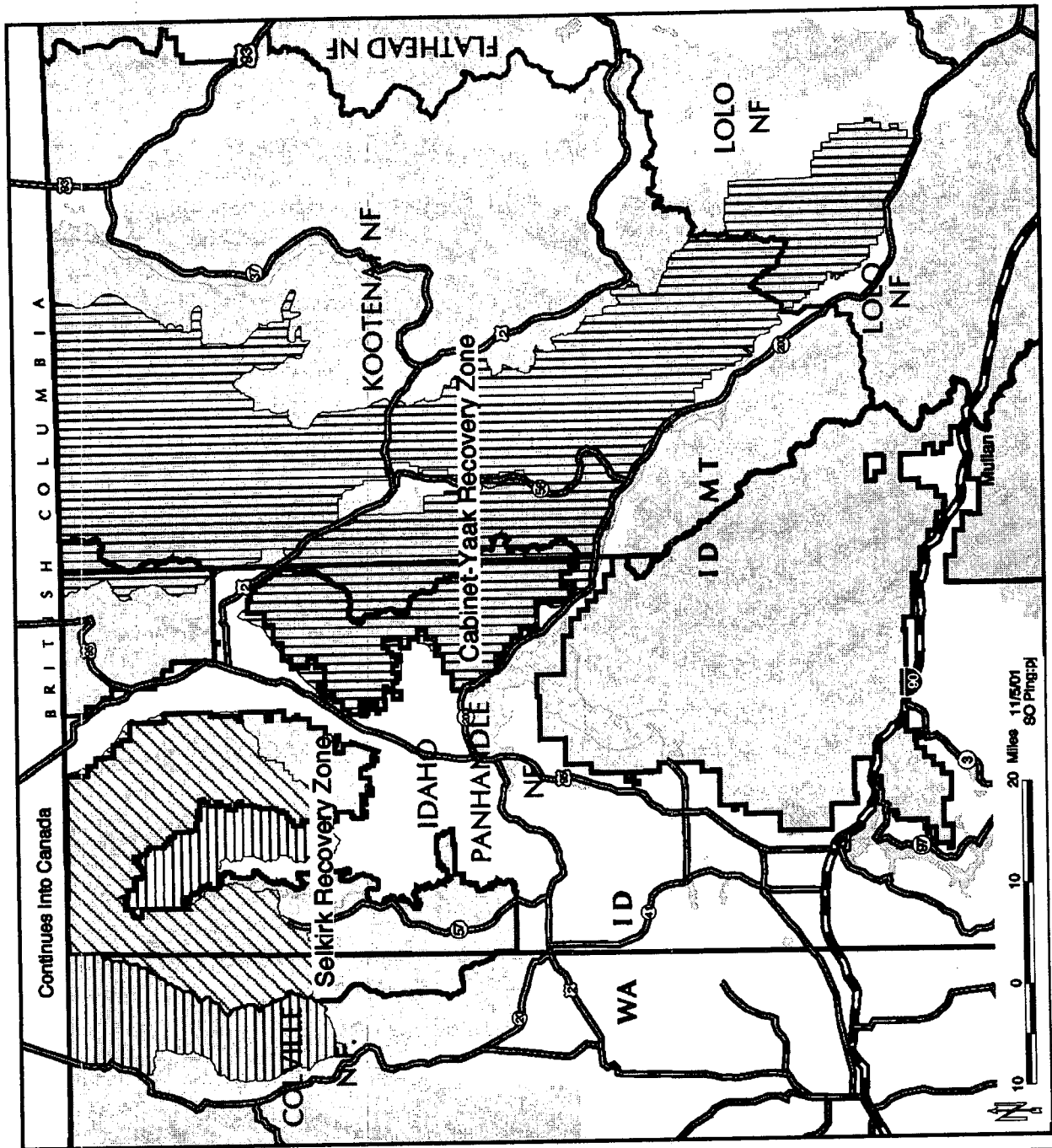
The Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak Recovery Zones (SRZ and CYRZ) are two of six grizzly bear recovery zones identified in the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan (USFWS 1993). Located in northwestern Montana, northern Idaho, northeastern Washington, and British Columbia, the two ecosystems encompass 4,560 square miles of habitat. Portions of the Kootenai, Idaho Panhandle, Lolo, and Colville National Forests, and Kootenay Lakes Forest District (B.C.) are included in the recovery areas (see Figure 1-1, Vicinity Map with Recovery Zones).

This Environmental Impact Statement addresses the amendment of the Forest Plans for the Kootenai, Lolo, and Idaho Panhandle National Forests. Therefore, only those portions of the SRZ and CYRZ within the boundaries of the three National Forests were analyzed. These portions of the recovery zones are displayed on Figure 1-1. The total acreage including all ownerships within the recovery zones inside the boundaries of the three National Forests is as follows: 1,189,000 acres within the Kootenai National Forest; 163,000 acres within the Lolo National Forest, and 806,000 acres within the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. Acreage of private land and other ownerships is quantified and mapped together with public lands; however, this analysis and subsequent decision only affects lands administered by the three National Forests.

Figure 1-1

This map shows the portions of northern Idaho and Western Montana that contain the Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak Grizzly Bear and Recovery Zones. The Colville NF in eastern Washington is not included in the analysis area for the amendments to the Forest Plans for the Idaho Panhandle, Kootenai and Lolo National Forests.

Cabinet-Yaak and Selkirk Grizzly Bear Recovery Zones



Purpose and Need

The purpose and need for action for these Forest Plan amendments originates from several directives to update objectives and standards for access management within grizzly bear recovery areas. The overall purpose is as follows:

Amend Forest Plans to include a set of motorized access and security guidelines to meet our responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act to conserve and contribute to recovery of grizzly bears.

To fully understand the need for action, the following statements illustrate a timeline from 1994 to 2001 in which many key directives developed and eventually led to this proposal to amend the Forest Plans:

The Need to Comply with the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee Task Force Report.

In July 1994, the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) issued a Task Force Report which directed the IGBC subcommittees from each recovery zone to develop recommended parameters for road densities and core habitat using the best biological information and considering the social and economic impacts.

The Need to Comply with the Amended Biological Opinion and Incidental Take Statements on the Kootenai and Lolo National Forest Land and Resource Management Plans.

In July 1995, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued an amended Biological Opinion (BO) and Incidental Take Statement (ITS) on the Kootenai and Lolo National Forest Land and Resource Management Plans. Terms and Conditions included in the ITS stated the Kootenai and Lolo National Forests were to adopt the new access management guidelines when developed.

The Need to Comply with the Decision by the Chief of the Forest Service on the Appeal of the Kootenai National Forest Plan.

In November 1995, the Chief of the Forest Service issued a decision on a Forest Plan appeal by the Cabinet Resources Group and Montana Wilderness Association. The decision directed the Regional Forester to incorporate through Forest Plan amendment or revision the Interagency Grizzly Bear Guidelines in their entirety.

The Selkirk/Cabinet-Yaak Subcommittee chartered the Access Management Task Group in July 1996. The Task Group was directed to complete access recommendations by January 1997. This task group met nearly monthly for well over a year. The task group used research by local grizzly bear research scientists Wayne Kasworm (USFWS) and Wayne Wakkinen (Idaho Dept of Fish and Game), held several public meetings to discuss the research and understand the social concerns, and completed an effects analysis looking at the social and management impacts to implementing a new access strategy.

In February 1997, the Task Group presented its findings to the Subcommittee. The parameters being considered were:

- o Open Road Density > 1 mi/sq.mi (must be 33% or less in a BMU),
- o Total Road Density > 2 mi/sq.mi (must be 26% or less of a BMU),
- o Core Habitat must be at least 55% of the BMU, and
- o Administrative Use would be restricted to no more than one trip per day on restricted roads.
- o The road density calculations would be done by using the Moving Windows analysis method.

The research and findings were presented to the public in July 1997 in a series of public meetings in communities surrounding the recovery zones. A majority of the public clearly displayed their disapproval of additional access restrictions, particularly on the Kootenai National Forest portion.

The Access Management Task Group presented the effects analysis to the Subcommittee in February 1998. The Subcommittee put together an Implementation Group to determine how the Forests would proceed with the implementation of the new Rule Set.

In September 1998, the Subcommittee decided not to make "final" changes to the Forest Plans at that time, but rather to implement "interim" guidelines to be in place for three years and/or until Forest Plan revisions were completed. The Subcommittee approved the Interim Rule Set in December 1998 and began implementation in January 1999.

The Need to Comply with the Stipulations of a Settlement Agreement in Order to Dismiss a Lawsuit Challenging Implementation of the Interim Rule Set.

In the Spring of 1999, the Alliance For The Wild Rockies filed a lawsuit challenging the Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle National Forests implementation of the Interim Rule Set without amending their Forest Plans. The Forests settled the lawsuit in March 2001 and agreed to amend their respective Forest Plans to address grizzly bear management. The Lolo National Forest was not included in this lawsuit; however, they requested to be included in the amendment process so as to update their Forest Plan to provide consistent direction within the Cabinet-Yaak recovery zone.

Decision to be Made

The decision to be made by the three Forest Supervisors regarding access management within the Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak Recovery Areas is two-fold:

1. whether to change the existing forest plan direction;
2. if so, what new standards should be established to guide management of access within the recovery areas

Proposed Action

The Forest Supervisors are proposing to amend their respective Forest Plans regarding Forest Plan standards and monitoring requirements that respond to the recommendations of the Interim Access Management Strategy and Interim Access Management Rule Set. The proposed action includes the following elements:

- a set of definitions
- requirements for:
 - o habitat effectiveness,
 - o core security areas,
 - o total motorized route density,
 - o open motorized route density.

The specific actions proposed are detailed in the description of Alternative B found in Chapter 2 of the FEIS. The decision to be made is whether to adopt the proposed action as designed, with different requirements, or not at all. This amendment would result in a new appendix to the Idaho Panhandle and Lolo National Forest Land and Resource Management Plans. It will be an addendum to Appendix 8 of the Kootenai National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

Scope of the Proposed Action

The Kootenai, Lolo, and Idaho Panhandle Forest Plans provide broad direction for management activities through identified goals, standards, guidelines, and designation of Management Areas. These amendments will not establish new Management Areas, nor change the land base considered suitable for timber production. Reconsideration of goals, objectives, and land allocations will be part of the analysis of a longer-term strategy considered when the Forest Plans are revised.

The proposal to amend certain Forest-wide objectives, standards, and guidelines is limited to those related to management of motorized access within the grizzly bear recovery zones. No changes in direction for other federally-listed species are proposed in these amendments.

These amendments will guide implementation of site-specific projects that tier to the Forest Plan. Additional NEPA compliance will focus on site-specific projects and environmental impacts of implementing the new direction incorporated into the Forest Plans.

Consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will be completed on the programmatic effects of this amendment. Further consultation will occur on site-specific actions as they are proposed and analyzed.

Public Involvement

Chapter Four of the FEIS provides detailed information on the public involvement activities that occurred during the preparation of this FEIS, as well as public comments received on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), and the Forest Service responses to those comments. It also provides details on the public participation throughout the process and lists names of organizations and individuals receiving the documents.

A complete record of communication, collaboration and public involvement related to this project is on file at the Kootenai National Forest Supervisor's Office in Libby, Montana.

Scoping and Public Comments Prior to the DEIS

A Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS was published in the Federal Register on May 11, 2001. A legal advertisement was placed in the three newspapers of record (Kalispell, Montana, *Daily InterLake*; Missoula, Montana, *Missoulian*; Spokane, Washington, *Spokesman-Review*) as well as several local and regional publications. A project update and request for comments was mailed to approximately 1300 individuals, agencies, organizations, and Tribal entities on May 10, 2001.

Open house public meetings were held in the communities of Libby, Eureka, and Thompson Falls, Montana as well as Sandpoint and Bonners Ferry, Idaho between May 24 and June 5, 2001. Approximately 50-60 individuals attended each meeting and asked questions of the Interdisciplinary Team (ID Team), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) biologists, and grizzly bear research biologists.

Several members of the ID Team and specialists from the Priest Lake Ranger District presented information at a panel discussion sponsored by the Priest Lake Outdoor Recreation and Trails Association at Coolin, Idaho on June 15, 2001. Approximately 60 individuals, including Idaho congressional aides and local community leaders attended this public forum.

Other presentations were provided to organizations conducting meetings in the communities of Bonners Ferry and Post Falls, Idaho and Spokane, Washington. The given meetings were organized by the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Backcountry Horseman of Spokane, Kootenai Valley Sportsmen, Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation, the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee, and the Selkirk/Cabinet-Yaak Subcommittee.

Audiences who attended these meetings included local government officials, county commissioners, Tribal representatives, Idaho congressional aides, the Deputy Secretary of the Department of the Interior, IGBC members, and over 200 private individuals.

Written notice of the proposed project was included in the Lolo, Kootenai, and Idaho Panhandle National Forests Schedules of Proposed Actions and mailed to over 900 individuals every three months during 2001. Scoping, project updates, and open house schedules were posted on the intranet sites for all three Forests and internet sites for the IGBC and Idaho Panhandle National Forests.

Approximately 200 letters were received during the public scoping period as a result of the NOI, newspaper advertisements, mailers, and open houses. These letters were reviewed by the ID Team, Advisory Committee and Deciding Officials, and used to identify significant issues for the development of alternatives.

On July 31, 2001, a project update newsletter including, a preview of the proposed alternatives was mailed to approximately 550 individuals, agencies, organizations, and Tribal entities. The preview also invited the public to indicate their preference in receiving a Summary of the DEIS or the entire DEIS. A distribution list of more than 500 individuals, agencies, organizations, and Tribal entities receiving this Final EIS is included at the end of this chapter.

Public Involvement Following Release of the DEIS

The DEIS and Summary were released in early November 2001 with approximately 500 copies mailed to individuals, agencies, organizations, and Tribal entities on the distribution list.

The Environmental Protection Agency published a Notice of Availability (NOA) in the Federal Register on November 15, 2001. A legal advertisement was placed in the three Newspapers of Record (*Daily Inter Lake*, *Spokesman-Review*, and *the Missoulian*) as well as several local and regional publications.

Open Houses were held in the communities of Libby, Thompson Falls, and Eureka, Montana as well as Sandpoint, Bonners Ferry, Coolin, and Coeur d'Alene, Idaho between November 26 and December 19, 2001. Approximately 60-70 individuals attended each meeting and asked questions of the ID Team, USFWS biologists and grizzly bear research biologists.

The Priest Lake Outdoor Recreation and Trails Association again sponsored an additional open house meeting in Coolin, Idaho on December 6, 2001. A panel discussion was held following a project briefing and was staffed by several members of the ID team and specialists from the Priest Lake Ranger District. Approximately 50-60 individuals attended, including Idaho congressional aides, media representatives and community leaders.

Scoping information, project updates, and open house schedules were posted on the intranet sites for all three Forests and internet sites for the Lolo and Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The IGBC internet site posted all scoping information, project updates, open house schedules, and the entire DEIS and summary documents. Numerous newspaper articles, radio station interviews, and news articles were released throughout the local communities during the public scoping and DEIS comment periods. The project file contains documentation of local media coverage of the project.

The 45-day public comment period closed on December 31, 2001. Approximately 500 members of the public (including agencies, organizations and Tribal entities) received either the DEIS or its Summary.

Over 330 letters, containing a total of 531 substantive comments, were received during the DEIS comment period. A content analysis process was utilized to identify and code substantive and non-substantive comments. Substantive comments are those that address the adequacy of the EIS, or the merits of the alternatives, or both. In some cases similar comments were grouped together to facilitate and track responses. The following table (Table S-1) displays the number of substantive comments by category and quantity (number of comments received).

Table S-1 Summary of Substantive Comments

Category	Quantity
Grizzly Bear	170
Canadian Lynx	1
Moose	1
Public Access	79
Administrative Access	13
Access to Private Inholdings	4
Fisheries	6
Sensitive Species	1
Vegetation	1
Timber	3
Recreational Use of Roads and Trails	13
Employment/Income	36
Land Ownership and Use	8
Perceptions on Grizzly Bear Management	24
Fire	7
No Action Alternative A	8
Interim Access Rule Set (Proposed Action) Alternative B	9
Security Standards Applied Across All BMU's Alternative C	9
Security Standards for Individual BMU's (Preferred) Alternative E	24
Increased Security Habitat Alternative D	11
Maintain Current Levels of Access Alternative F	7
Maximum Access Alternative G	4
Other Alternatives	28
NEPA Process	27
Cumulative Effects	7
Forest Plan	18
Miscellaneous Comments	12

Public Involvement Summary

Following is a summary of primary communication, collaboration and public involvement efforts which are discussed in more detail in Chapter Four of the FEIS and in the project record.

- May 10, 2001- Project Update and Request for Public Comments distributed to about 1300 individuals, agencies, organizations, and Tribal entities.
- May 11, 2001- Notice of Intent (formal project initiation) published in the *Federal Register*.
- May 24, 2001 to June 5, 2001- Series of public meetings held in various communities.
- June 2001 to August 2001- Information presented at Public Forums and/or Organizational Meetings in various Communities
- July 31, 2001- Project Update Newsletter distributed to about 550 Individuals, Agencies, Organizations, and Tribal Entities.
- November 15, 2001- DEIS Notice of Availability Published in the *Federal Register*, corresponding with the associated mailing and/or availability of the DEIS and/or DEIS Summary to about 500 Individuals, Agencies, Organizations, and Tribal Entities.
- November 26, 2001 to December 19, 2001- Open Houses associated with the release of the DEIS were held in/ various communities.
- December 6, 2001- Information presented at a locally sponsored Public Forum.
- December 31, 2001 – End of the 45-day comment period on the DEIS.

The project file contains the Communications and Collaboration Strategy and documentation of radio and newspaper media coverage of the project, as well as all public correspondence.

Significant Issues

Section 102(2)(e) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) states that all Federal agencies shall “study, develop, and describe appropriate alternatives to recommended courses of action in any proposal which involves unresolved conflict concerning alternative uses of available resources.” In order to identify these unresolved conflicts, the Interdisciplinary Team, Advisory Committee, and the Deciding Officials reviewed all public comments and identified a series of significant issues to lead the development of alternative actions. The following significant issues were identified:

I. Public Access for Recreation and Social Uses

- Many comments expressed a significant concern related to reductions in motorized public access to lands administered by the Forest Service within the recovery zones. Any changes to motorized access would generate effects to social and recreational use expressed predominantly in the communities adjacent to the recovery zones.

II. Administrative Access

- The proposed action may reduce the administrative use of roads and motorized trails, the construction of roads and motorized trails, and the closure and decommissioning of roads and motorized trails. This potentially influences activities such as timber harvest, wildfire suppression, administrative management activities, and other uses associated with Forest Service roads and motorized trails.

III. Local Economic Conditions

- Comments identified concerns that the proposed action may disrupt local economies and consideration should be given to sustaining the economic components of resource dependent communities.

IV. Increased Secure Habitat for Grizzly Bears

- The proposed action may not sufficiently restrict motorized access to facilitate adequate levels of secure grizzly bear habitat within the Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak Recovery Zones.

V. Access to Private Inholdings

- Implementation of the proposed action may place limits on the amount of motorized use of Forest Service roads accessing private inholdings. This issue is relative to isolated parcels of private property surrounded by lands administered by the Forest Service.

Alternatives Considered in Detail

Definitions of Terminology Common to All Alternatives

Before beginning a discussion of the specific design criteria in each alternative, it is imperative that the complex terms associated with grizzly bear habitat classification and access management be understood. Throughout this analysis, definitions of these terms have followed those described by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) Task Force Report titled Grizzly Bear/Motorized Access Management (IGBC 1998). It was the IGBC's intent to establish definitions and procedures that would allow for consistency among the various land management units in describing effects of human access routes on grizzly bear habitat use.

- **Administrative Use** – Motorized administrative vehicle use by personnel of resource management agencies on restricted roads outside of core areas, at low levels. This includes contractors and permittees in addition to agency employees.
- **BAA (Bear Analysis Area)** - Subdivision of a BMU used for linear open road density calculations. Also termed Bear Management Analysis Area (BMAA) on the Lolo National Forest.
- **BMU (Bear Management Unit)** - Areas established for use in grizzly bear analysis. BMU's generally (a) approximate female home range size; and (b) include representations of all available habitat components.
- **Core area** - An area of secure habitat within a BMU that contains no motorized travel routes or high use non-motorized trails during the non-denning season and is more than 0.3 miles (500 meters) from a drivable road. Core areas do not include any gated roads but may contain roads that are impassible due to vegetation or constructed barriers. Core areas strive to contain the full range of seasonal habitats that are available in the BMU.
- **Habitat effectiveness (HE)**- A measure of habitat security in a BMU calculated by establishing buffers around open roads and other activities. The width of the buffer depends on the type of activity, but is ¼ mile for most activities. The goal is to maintain at least 70 percent of each BMU as effective habitat during the active bear year on the Kootenai, and 70 square miles of effective habitat on the Idaho Panhandle.
- **Linear open road density** - Linear miles of open roads divided by the area of a BAA or BMU in square miles, exclusive of roads and land area in Management Situation 3.
- **Open Motorized Route Density (OMRD)** - Calculation made with the moving windows technique that includes open roads, other roads not meeting all restricted or obliterated criteria, and open motorized trails. The percent of the analysis area in relevant route density classes is calculated.

- Priority BMUs - A biological rating for each BMU derived by the Access Task Group of the SCYE Management Subcommittee. Each BMU was rated 1-high priority, 2-moderate priority, or 3-low priority based on sightings of family groups, credible grizzly sightings, human caused mortality, adjacency to BMU's having females with young, and within a linkage area or not.
- Road - all created or evolved routes that are greater than 500 feet long which are reasonably and prudently drivable with a conventional passenger car or pickup.
 - Open Road – a road without restriction on motorized use.
 - Restricted Road – a road on which motorized vehicle use is restricted seasonally or yearlong. The road requires effective physical obstruction (generally gated). Motorized administrative use by personnel of resource management agencies is acceptable at low intensity levels as defined in existing cumulative effects analysis models. This includes contractors and permittees in addition to agency employees.
 - Reclaimed/Obliterated/Barriered Road - a route which is managed with the long term intent for no motorized use, and has been treated in such a manner so as to no longer function as a road. An effective means to accomplish this is through one or a combination of several means including: recontouring to original slope, placement of logging or forest debris, planting of shrubs or trees, obliterating/barriering the entrance, etc.
- Trail - all created or evolved access routes that do not qualify as a "road." They are not reasonably and prudently drivable with a conventional passenger car or pickup.
 - Open Motorized Trail – a trail that receives motorized use. Trails used by 4-wheelers, 4-wheel drive vehicles and motorized trail bikes are examples of this type of access route.
 - Restricted Motorized Trail – a trail on which motorized use is restricted seasonally or yearlong. Motorized use is effectively/physically restricted.
- Total Motorized Route Density (TMRD) - Calculation made with the moving windows technique that includes open roads, restricted roads, roads not meeting all reclaimed criteria, and open motorized trails. The percent of the analysis area in relevant route density classes is calculated.

Features Common To All Alternatives

- In the DEIS, all alternatives addressed the Kalispell-Granite and Lakeshore BMUs in the Selkirk Recovery Zone as a combined unit titled Kalispell-Lakeshore. In response to internal and external concerns with this combination, Alternative E has been modified from the DEIS and the two BMUs have been displayed as separate units (Kalispell-Granite and Lakeshore) with individual habitat security standards. Alternatives A, B, and C remain unchanged and continue to display the combined Kalispell-Lakeshore BMU.
- The Federal lands administered by the Colville National Forest are not included in this analysis. As 90 percent of the lands within the LeClerc BMU are administered by the Colville National Forest, this BMU was not addressed in any alternative.
- The Salmo-Priest and Sullivan-Hughes BMUs occupy lands on both the Idaho Panhandle and Colville National Forests. Significant acreages occur within the Idaho Panhandle National Forest so these BMUs were included in this analysis. Standards referenced in all alternatives are quantified relative to the entire BMU. Site-specific implementation of standards will be coordinated between the two Forests at the project level.
- Federal lands occupy only 56.6 % of the Grouse BMU. In consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the methodology for quantification of security parameters was modified for this BMU to not include secure habitat from private lands in the calculation of standards.

Alternative A – No Action

The No Action alternative is defined as the direction and implementation of the Forest Plans, as amended and under the terms and conditions of their respective Biological Opinions, prior to December 1, 1998, the date the Interim Access Rule went into effect. The goals and objectives of the Forest Plans and other directives which were in place at that time would remain unchanged under this alternative.

The three Forest Plans and the amended Biological Opinions from the Kootenai and Lolo National Forests provide specific direction for several habitat security parameters. Prescribed levels of linear open road density, habitat effectiveness, and administrative use are detailed in Table S-6. Specific levels of Open Motorized Route Density (OMRD), Total Motorized Route Density (TMRD), and Core Area are not prescribed in this alternative but are held constant at levels existing at the end of the Year 2000. Table S-2 displays the Year 2000 status as well as the levels maintained in Alternative A.

The following summary displays the major habitat security components of Alternative A:

- Linear open road density (ORD) of ≤ 0.75 mile per square mile within each BMU and BAA on the Kootenai National Forest.
- Linear ORD of ≤ 1.00 mile per square mile within each BMAA and meets grizzly bear management strategy on the Lolo National Forest.
- No linear ORD standard required on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest.
- Each BMU on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest must provide ≥ 70 square miles of habitat effectiveness.
- Each BMU on the Kootenai National Forest must provide ≥ 70 percent habitat effectiveness.
- No standard for habitat effectiveness required on the Lolo National Forest.
- Administrative Use on the Kootenai National Forest would be 121 trips per year.
- Administrative Use on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest would be 15 days per year.
- Administrative Use on the Lolo National Forest would be 14 days per year.
- OMRD on the Kootenai would be no increase in linear density above current Forest Plan standards and no increase in open motorized trail density in affected BMUs
- OMRD on the Lolo would be no increase in linear density above current Forest Plan and grizzly bear management strategy and no increase in open motorized trails.
- The Idaho Panhandle National Forest would have no OMRD standards.
- TMRD on the Kootenai and Lolo National Forests would have no net increase in affected BMUs or subunits.
- TMRD on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest would have no standard.
- Core Area on the Kootenai and Lolo National Forests would have no net decrease in existing amount of core in affected BMUs with flexibility to make major changes.
- The Idaho Panhandle National Forests would have no standard for Core Area.

- No Public Use Periods (30 days) would be allowed on restricted roads within any of the three National Forests.

The No Action Alternative is required by the National Environmental Policy Act and provides a baseline against which to compare the amount and rate of change of all other alternatives. At the same time, it does provide a certain level of responsiveness to some of the unresolved issues identified by the proposed action. This alternative displays the effects of a more conservative approach to access management than the Proposed Action (Alternative B). In doing so, it provides a different course of action which is responsive to the issues of public access, administrative access, economics, and access to private inholdings.

The Forest Plans and Biological Opinions do not prescribe specific timeframes for implementation of the habitat security parameters included in this alternative. Substantial progress has been made toward meeting these standards through implementation of project-level decisions within individual BMUs. Full implementation of the actions needed to reach the prescribed standards of this alternative is estimated to take 2-6 years from the date of decision for these programmatic Forest Plan Amendments. While steady progress is expected during this timeframe, actions beyond the control of the Forest Service could delay full implementation. Actions beyond Forest Service control include administrative appeals or litigation of project-level decisions, budgets to support project-level decisions, or future priorities affecting the project-level decisions.

Table S-2. ALTERNATIVE A – BMU STATUS AND PROPOSED STANDARDS

BMU	BMU priorities	OMRD >1mi/mi ² (%)		TMRD >2 mi/mi ² (%)		% Core		% Federal Land
		2000 Status	Proposed Standard (max)	2000 Status	Proposed Standard (max)	2000 Status	Proposed Standard (min.)	
1	2	11.5	11.5	10.8	10.8	83.0	83	99
2	2	16.7	16.7	14.3	14.3	78.0	78	94
3	3	23.5	23.5	30.4	30.4	58.3	58.3	95
4	2	36.4	36.4	25.9	25.9	63.1	63.1	84
5	1	27.0	27.0	20.9	20.9	61.5	61.5	97
6	1	33.2	33.2	31.3	31.3	54.8	54.8	85
7	2	23.0	23.0	20.1	20.1	66.3	66.3	92
8	3	31.7	31.7	21.2	21.2	56.9	56.9	93
9	2	32.2	32.2	28.1	28.1	56.3	56.3	90
10	2	44.6	44.6	33.8	33.8	47.7	47.7	95
11	1	28.8	28.8	26.9	26.9	54.9	54.9	96
12	1	45.4	45.4	30.7	30.7	56.2	56.2	92
13	1	34.5	34.5	24.4	24.4	59.0	59.0	99
14	1	28.3	28.3	26.3	26.3	55.7	55.7	99
15	1	30.7	30.7	32.2	32.2	47.8	47.8	94
16	1	31.2	31.2	38.4	38.4	44.7	44.7	96
17	2	32.0	32.0	27.0	27.0	49.0	49.0	99
22	3	37.0	37.0	41.0	41.0	47.2	47.2	89
Boulder (18)	3	37.0	N/A	35.0	N/A	48.0	N/A	92
Grouse (19)* **	3	59.0	N/A	59.0	N/A	32.0	N/A	56
N. Lightning (20)	1	38.0	N/A	20.0	N/A	61.0	N/A	94
Scotchman (21)	2	35.0	N/A	27.0	N/A	63.0	N/A	81
Blue-Grass	1	30.0	N/A	29.0	N/A	49.0	N/A	96
Long-Smith	1	21.0	N/A	13.0	N/A	73.0	N/A	92
Kalispell-Lakeshore***	1	37.0	N/A	30.0	N/A	41.0	N/A	94
Salmo-Priest	2	30.0	N/A	24.1	N/A	64.0	N/A	99
Sullivan-Hughes	1	22.9	N/A	20.3	N/A	55.0	N/A	99
Myrtle	2	31.0	N/A	19.0	N/A	60.0	N/A	85
Ball-Trout	2	16.0	N/A	9.0	N/A	74.0	N/A	94
Le Clerc * ****	3	39.1	****	52.7	****	32	****	64

* < 75% Federal lands

** Due to the high level of non-Federal lands within the Grouse BMU, existing conditions and standards are calculated assuming no contribution of secure habitat from private lands.

*** Kalispell-Lakeshore BMU is the combination of the Kalispell-Granite and the Lakeshore BMUs.

**** LeClerc BMU is not addressed in this project as 90% of the acreage is within the Colville National Forest.

N/A – **Not Applicable:** The Idaho Panhandle Forest Plan or Biological Opinion does not contain a requirement for these standards.

Alternative B – Interim Access Rule Set (Proposed Action)

Alternative B was presented as the Proposed Action during the public scoping period in May and June 2001. This alternative proposes implementation of the Interim Access Rule Set issued by the Selkirk/Cabinet-Yaak Subcommittee of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) on December 1, 1998.

Alternative B provided the basis for public comment during the scoping period. The specific actions proposed in this alternative served as the impetus for public comment and provided the basis for identification of issues and concerns. As such, this alternative does not respond to the significant issues identified through public scoping. It provides the baseline for measuring responsiveness of each alternative to a specific array of issues.

The Interim Access Rule Set was identified as the initial course of action because it was an approved management strategy that had been subject to considerable review and deliberation by grizzly bear biologists and land managers alike. From the perspective of the Selkirk/Cabinet-Yaak Subcommittee, it was an acceptable management strategy that was balanced between the habitat needs of the grizzly bear and the social and economic well-being of the local communities.

As with the other action alternatives presented in this analysis, the design of Alternative B is very complex. The Interim Access Rule Set provides a goal of achieving core habitat on a minimum of 55 percent of the area within each Priority One BMU. It stopped short of setting standards but does provide specific direction for several habitat security parameters. The levels of linear open road density and habitat effectiveness prescribed in the Forest Plans and Biological Opinions are to be met. Existing levels of OMRD and TMRD may not be increased. Other parameters such as levels of administrative use and public use are included to provide management flexibility in meeting local social and economic needs. Table S-3 displays the Year 2000 status as well as the proposed levels of these parameters in Alternative B. Please refer to Table S-6 for the full description of the design criteria in each alternative.

The following summary displays the major habitat security components of Alternative B:

- Linear open road density (ORD) of ≤ 0.75 mile per square mile within each BMU and BAA on the Kootenai National Forest.
- Linear ORD of ≤ 1.00 mile per square mile within each BMAA and meets grizzly bear management strategy on the Lolo National Forest.
- No linear ORD standard required on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest.
- Each BMU on the Kootenai, Lolo, and Idaho Panhandle National Forests must provide ≥ 70 percent habitat effectiveness.
- Administrative Use on the Kootenai, Lolo, and Idaho Panhandle National Forests would be 115 round trips per year distributed by season.
- OMRD and TMRD on the Kootenai, Lolo, and Idaho Panhandle National Forests would be no increase on Forest lands within the recovery areas.

- Core Area standards would be no net loss on Federal ownerships in all BMUs on the Kootenai, Lolo, and Idaho Panhandle National Forests. Work toward the goal of achieving 55% in Priority 1 BMUs.
- Public Use Periods (30 days) would be allowed on one gated road system per year per BMU, if BMUs meet criteria. Seasonal habitats would not be affected.

As the title indicates, the rule set was authorized as an interim strategy. The interim period was to extend for three years from the implementation date of January 1999 or until Forest Plans are revised, or until the Selkirk/Cabinet-Yaak Subcommittee determines a need to modify this direction. Neither the Interim Access Rule Set nor the Forest Plans and Biological Opinions prescribe specific timeframes for implementation of the habitat security parameters included in this alternative. Substantial progress has been made toward meeting these standards through implementation of project-level decisions within individual BMUs. Full implementation of this alternative is estimated to take 3-7 years from the date of decision on these programmatic Forest Plan amendments. While steady progress is expected during this timeframe, actions beyond the control of the Forest Service could delay full implementation. Actions beyond Forest Service control include administrative appeals or litigation of project-level decisions, budgets to support project-level decisions, or future priorities affecting the project-level decisions.

Table S-3. ALTERNATIVE B – BMU STATUS AND PROPOSED STANDARDS

BMU	BMU priorities	OMRD >1mi/mi ² (%)		TMRD >2 mi/mi ² (%)		% Core		% Federal Land
		2000 Status	Proposed Standard (max)	2000 Status	Proposed Standard (max)	2000 Status	Proposed Standard (min.)	
1	2	11.5	11.5	10.8	10.8	83.0	83	99
2	2	16.7	16.7	14.3	14.3	78.0	78	94
3	3	23.5	23.5	30.4	30.4	58.3	58.3	95
4	2	36.4	36.4	25.9	25.9	63.1	63.1	84
5	1	27.0	27.0	20.9	20.9	61.5	61.5	97
6	1	33.2	33.2	31.3	31.3	54.8	55.0	85
7	2	23.0	23.0	20.1	20.1	66.3	66.3	92
8	3	31.7	31.7	21.2	21.2	56.9	56.9	93
9	2	32.2	32.2	28.1	28.1	56.3	56.3	90
10	2	44.6	44.6	33.8	33.8	47.7	47.7	95
11	1	28.8	28.8	26.9	26.9	54.9	55.0	96
12	1	45.4	45.4	30.7	30.7	56.2	56.2	92
13	1	34.5	34.5	24.4	24.4	59.0	59.0	99
14	1	28.3	28.3	26.3	26.3	55.7	55.7	99
15	1	30.7	30.7	32.2	32.2	47.8	55.0	94
16	1	31.2	31.2	38.4	38.4	44.7	55.0	96
17	2	32.0	32.0	27.0	27.0	49.0	49.0	99
22	3	37.0	37.0	41.0	41.0	47.2	47.2	89
Boulder (18)	3	37.0	37.0	35.0	35.0	48.0	48.0	92
Grouse (19)* **	3	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	32.0	32.0	54
N. Lightning (20)	1	38.0	38.0	20.0	20.0	61.0	61.0	94
Scotchman (21)	2	35.0	35.0	27.0	27.0	63.0	63.0	81
Blue-Grass	1	30.0	30.0	29.0	29.0	49.0	55.0	96
Long-Smith	1	21.0	21.0	13.0	13.0	73.0	73.0	92
Kalispell-Lakeshore	1	37.0	37.0	30.0	30.0	41.0	55.0	94
Salmo-Priest	2	30.0	30.0	24.1	24.1	64.0	64.0	99
Sullivan-Hughes	1	22.9	22.9	20.3	20.3	55.0	55.0	99
Myrtle	2	31.0	31.0	19.0	19.0	60.0	60.0	85
Ball-Trout	2	16.0	16.0	9.0	9.0	74.0	74.0	94
Le Clerc * ****	3	39.1	****	52.7	****	32	****	64

* ≤ 75% Federal lands

** Due to the high level of non-Federal lands within the Grouse BMU, existing conditions and standards are calculated assuming no contribution of secure habitat from private lands.

*** Kalispell-Lakeshore BMU is the combination of the Kalispell-Granite and the Lakeshore BMUs.

**** LeClerc BMU is not addressed in this project as 90% of the acreage lies within the Colville National Forest.

Alternative C – Security Standards Applied Across All BMUs

In this alternative, numeric standards for OMRD ($\leq 33\%$), TMRD ($\leq 26\%$), and Core Habitat ($\geq 55\%$) would be established for all BMUs with greater than 75 percent Federal lands. The Grouse BMU is assigned a specific set of standards due to its limited (56.6%) amount of Federal lands. This alternative was developed in response to concerns that the Proposed Action lacked sufficient habitat security for grizzly bears. It was designed to incorporate the OMRD, TMRD, and Core Habitat levels recommended in 1997 by the Selkirk/Cabinet –Yaak Access Task Group, as well as in a recent US Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinion on the Idaho Panhandle Forest Plan. These recommendations represent average security values documented through the latest available science and results of grizzly bear research and monitoring within the recovery zone.

It is important to note that Alternative C allows no increase in route densities or decrease in core habitat until all BMUs in the recovery zone meet the standards for these parameters. This alternative would also remove the existing Forest Plan standards regarding linear open road density and habitat effectiveness. Table S-4 displays the Year 2000 status as well as the proposed levels of these parameters in Alternative C. Please refer to Table S-6 for the full description of the design criteria in each alternative.

The following summary displays the major habitat security components of Alternative C:

- No standards for linear open road density (ORD) on any of the three National Forests.
- No standards for habitat effectiveness on any of the three National Forests.
- OMRD on all three Forests would be no more than 33% with density > 1 mile per square mile as measured by moving windows model. No increase in OMRD until all BMUs in Recovery Zone meet standards for OMRD, TMRD, and Core Area. In BMUs not meeting OMRD, actions affecting OMRD must result in a movement toward the standard and no net loss during project activities.
- TMRD on all three Forests would be no more than 26% with density > 2 miles per square mile as measured by moving windows model. No increase in TMRD until all BMUs in Recovery Zone meet standards for OMRD, TMRD, and Core Area. In BMUs not meeting TMRD, actions affecting TMRD must result in a movement toward the standard and no net loss during project activities.
- Core Area on all three Forests would be no less than 55% for each BMU. There would be no decrease in Core Area within BMUs currently greater than 55% until all BMUs in Recovery Zone meet standards for OMRD, TMRD, and Core Area. In BMUs not meeting Core Area standard, actions affecting Core Area must result in a movement toward the standard and no net loss during project activities. Other Core Area requirements would include implementation timeframes, consideration for seasonal needs, and Core Area fixed in place for 10 years minimum.
- Administrative Use on the Kootenai, Lolo, and Idaho Panhandle National Forests would be 57 round trips per year distributed by season.
- Public Use Periods (30 days) allowed on restricted roads in all three Forests if BMUs meet criteria. Seasonal habitats would not be affected and only allowed 1 gated road system per year per BMU.

Full implementation of the actions needed to reach the prescribed standards of this alternative is estimated to take 6-10 years from the date of decision for these programmatic Forest Plan amendments. While steady progress is expected during this timeframe, actions beyond the control of the Forest Service could delay full implementation. Actions beyond Forest Service control include administrative appeals or litigation of project-level decisions, budgets to support project-level decisions, or future priorities affecting the project-level decisions.

Table S-4. ALTERNATIVE C – BMU STATUS AND PROPOSED STANDARDS

BMU	BMU priorities	OMRD >1mi/mi ² (%)		TMRD >2 mi/mi ² (%)		% Core		% Federal Land
		2000 Status	Proposed Standard (max)	2000 Status	Proposed Standard (max)	2000 Status	Proposed Standard (min.)	
1	2	11.5	33.0	10.8	26.0	83.0	55.0	99
2	2	16.7	33.0	14.3	26.0	78.0	55.0	94
3	3	23.5	33.0	30.4	26.0	58.3	55.0	95
4	2	36.4	33.0	25.9	26.0	63.1	55.0	84
5	1	27.0	33.0	20.9	26.0	61.5	55.0	97
6	1	33.2	33.0	31.3	26.0	54.8	55.0	85
7	2	23.0	33.0	20.1	26.0	66.3	55.0	92
8	3	31.7	33.0	21.2	26.0	56.9	55.0	93
9	2	32.2	33.0	28.1	26.0	56.3	55.0	90
10	2	44.6	33.0	33.8	26.0	47.7	55.0	95
11	1	28.8	33.0	26.9	26.0	54.9	55.0	96
12	1	45.4	33.0	30.7	26.0	56.2	55.0	92
13	1	34.5	33.0	24.4	26.0	59.0	55.0	99
14	1	28.3	33.0	26.3	26.0	55.7	55.0	99
15	1	30.7	33.0	32.2	26.0	47.8	55.0	94
16	1	31.2	33.0	38.4	26.0	44.7	55.0	96
17	2	32.0	33.0	27.0	26.0	49.0	55.0	99
22	3	37.0	33.0	41.0	26.0	47.2	55.0	89
Boulder (18)	3	37.0	33.0	35.0	26.0	48.0	55.0	92
Grouse (19)* **	3	59.0	59.0	59.0	55.0	32.0	37.0	54
N. Lightning (20)	1	38.0	33.0	20.0	26.0	61.0	55.0	94
Scotchman (21)	2	35.0	33.0	27.0	26.0	63.0	55.0	81
Blue-Grass	1	30.0	33.0	29.0	26.0	49.0	55.0	96
Long-Smith	1	21.0	33.0	13.0	26.0	73.0	55.0	92
Kalispell-Lakeshore***	1	37.0	33.0	30.0	26.0	41.0	55.0	94
Salmo-Priest	2	30.0	33.0	24.1	26.0	64.0	55.0	99
Sullivan-Hughes	1	22.9	33.0	20.3	26.0	55.0	55.0	99
Myrtle	2	31.0	33.0	19.0	26.0	60.0	55.0	85
Ball-Trout	2	16.0	33.0	9.0	26.0	74.0	55.0	94
Le Clerc * ****	3	39.1	****	52.7	****	32	****	64

* ≤ 75% Federal lands

** Due to the high level of non-Federal lands within the Grouse BMU, existing conditions and standards are calculated assuming no contribution of secure habitat from private lands.

*** Kalispell-Lakeshore BMU is the combination of the Kalispell-Granite and the Lakeshore BMUs.

**** LeClerc BMU is not addressed in this project as 90% of the acreage lies within the Colville National Forest.

Alternative E – Security Standards For Individual BMUs (Preferred Alternative)

In Alternative E, habitat security standards would be set individually for each BMU. Numeric standards for OMRD, TMRD, and Core Habitat as detailed by BMU in Table S-5 would be established. This alternative was developed to provide more management flexibility in response to issues related to public and administrative access, economics, access to private inholdings, and increased grizzly bear habitat security. Standards were determined through consultation with US Fish and Wildlife Service and grizzly bear research scientists and reflect the unique features of biological and social factors (highways, high quality habitat, residential developments, linkage zones, etc.) in specific BMUs. Alternative E has been identified as the Preferred Alternative.

An important design feature providing management flexibility in Alternative E allows increases in route densities and decreases in core habitat within individual BMUs that exceed the standards for these parameters. This alternative would also remove the existing Forest Plan standards regarding linear open road density and habitat effectiveness. Please refer to Table S-6 for the full description of the design criteria in each alternative. Table S-5 displays the Year 2000 status as well as the proposed levels of these parameters in Alternative E. The following summary displays the major habitat security components of Alternative E:

- No standards for linear open road density (ORD) on any of the three National Forests.
- No standards for habitat effectiveness on any of the three National Forests.
- OMRD on BMUs within all three Forests would be set at numeric standards established for each BMU as detailed in Table S-5. In BMUs not meeting OMRD, actions affecting OMRD must result in a movement toward the standard.
- TMRD on BMUs within all three Forests would be set at numeric standards established for each BMU as detailed in Table S-5. In BMUs not meeting TMRD, actions affecting TMRD must result in a movement toward the standard.
- Core Area on BMUs within all three Forests would be set at numeric standards established for each BMU as detailed in Table S-5. In BMUs not meeting Core Area standard, actions affecting Core Area must result in increased post-project Core Area. Other Core Area requirements would include consideration for seasonal needs, and Core Area fixed in place for 10 years minimum.
- Administrative Use on the Kootenai, Lolo, and Idaho Panhandle National Forests would be 57 round trips per year distributed by season.
- Public Use Periods (30 days) would not be allowed on restricted roads in any of the three National Forests.

Full implementation of the actions needed to reach the prescribed standards of this alternative is estimated to take 5-9 years from the date of decision. While steady progress is expected during this timeframe, actions beyond the control of the Forest Service could delay full implementation. Actions beyond Forest Service control include administrative appeals or litigation of project-level decisions, budgets to support project-level decisions, or future priorities affecting the project-level decisions.

Table S-5. ALTERNATIVE E – BMU STATUS AND PROPOSED STANDARDS

BMU	BMU priorities	OMRD >1mi/mi ² (%)		TMRD >2 mi/mi ² (%)		% Core		% Federal Land
		2000 Status	Proposed Standard (max)	2000 Status	Proposed Standard (max)	2000 Status	Proposed Standard (min.)	
1	2	11.5	15.0	10.8	15.0	83.0	80.0	99
2	2	16.7	20.0	14.3	18.0	78.0	75.0	94
3	3	23.5	33.0	30.4	26.0	58.3	55.0	95
4	2	36.4	36.0	25.9	26.0	63.1	63.0	84
5	1	27.0	30.0	20.9	23.0	61.5	58.0	97
6	1	33.2	34.0	31.3	32.0	54.8	55.0	85
7	2	23.0	26.0	20.1	23.0	66.3	63.0	92
8	3	31.7	32.0	21.2	20.0	56.9	55.0	93
9	2	32.2	33.0	28.1	26.0	56.3	55.0	90
10	2	44.6	44.0	33.8	34.0	47.7	48.0	95
11	1	28.8	33.0	26.9	26.0	54.9	55.0	96
12	1	45.4	45.0	30.7	31.0	56.2	55.0	92
13	1	34.5	33.0	24.4	26.0	59.0	55.0	99
14	1	28.3	33.0	26.3	26.0	55.7	55.0	99
15	1	30.7	33.0	32.2	26.0	47.8	55.0	94
16	1	31.2	33.0	38.4	26.0	44.7	55.0	96
17	2	32.0	33.0	27.0	26.0	49.0	55.0	99
22	3	37.0	33.0	41.0	35.0	47.2	55.0	89
Boulder (18)	3	37.0	33.0	35.0	29.0	48.0	55.0	92
Grouse (19)* **	3	59.0	59.0	59.0	55.0	32.0	37.0	54
N. Lightning (20)	1	38.0	35.0	20.0	26.0	61.0	61.0	94
Scotchman (21)	2	35.0	35.0	27.0	26.0	63.0	62.0	81
Blue-Grass	1	30.0	33.0	29.0	26.0	49.0	55.0	96
Long-Smith	1	21.0	25.0	13.0	15.0	73.0	67.0	92
Kalispell-Granite	1	31.0	33.0	29.0	26.0	46.0	55.0	96
Lakeshore	3	82.0	82.0	56.0	56.0	16.0	20.0	86
Salmo-Priest	2	30.0	33.0	24.0	26.0	64.0	64.0	99
Sullivan-Hughes	1	22.9	23.0	20.3	18.0	55.0	61.0	99
Myrtle	2	31.0	33.0	19.0	22.0	60.0	56.0	85
Ball-Trout	2	16.0	20.0	9.0	13.0	74.0	69.0	94
Le Clerc * ***	3	39.1	****	52.7	****	32	****	64

* ≤ 75% Federal lands

** Due to the high level of non-Federal lands within the Grouse BMU, existing conditions and standards are calculated assuming no contribution of secure habitat from private lands.

*** LeClerc BMU is not addressed in this project as 90% of the acreage lies within the Colville National Forest.

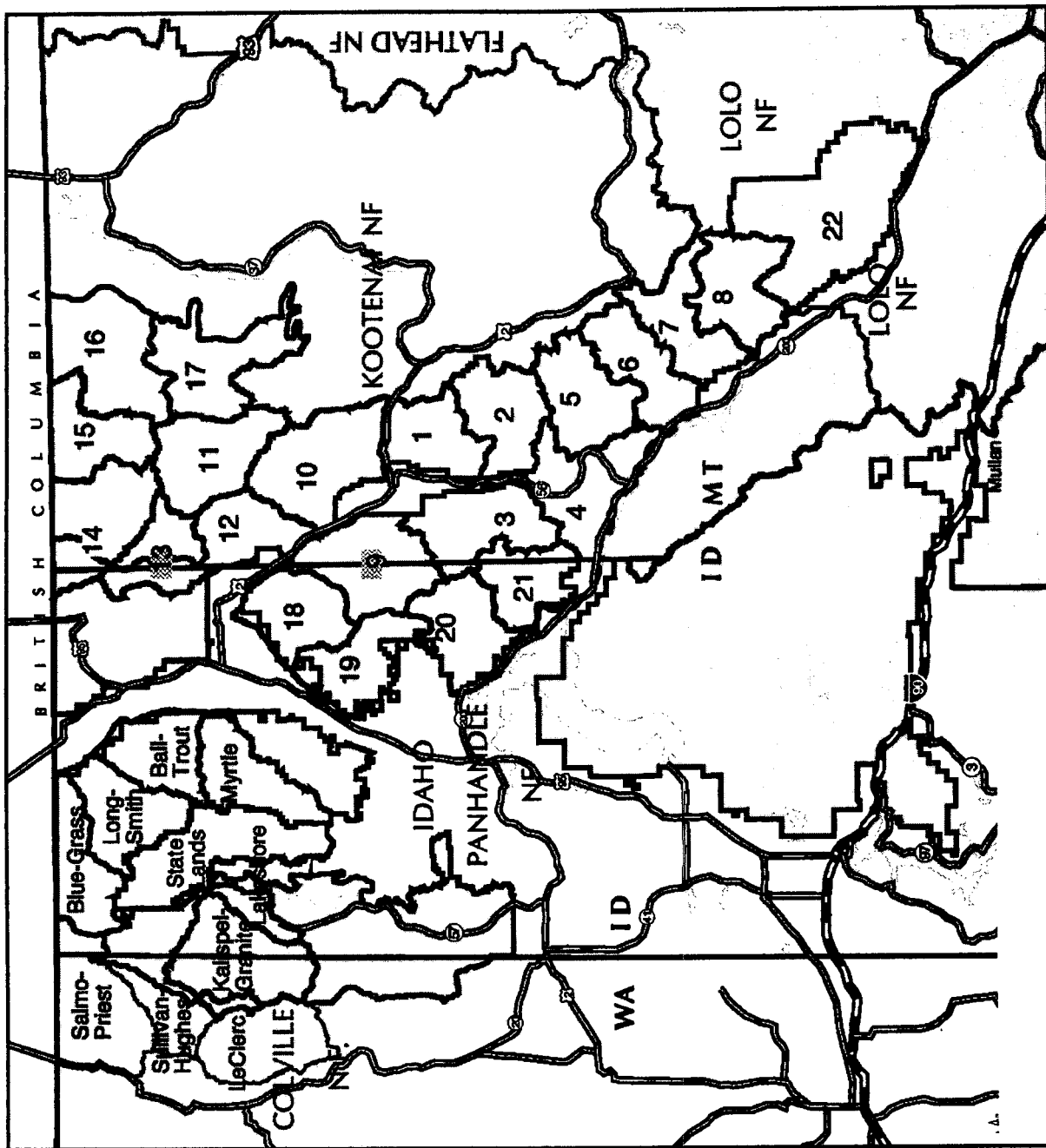


Figure 1-2

This map shows the Bear Management Units (BMUs) within the Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak Grizzly Bear Recovery Zones.

Cabinet-Yaak and Selkirk Grizzly Bear Management Units (BMUs)

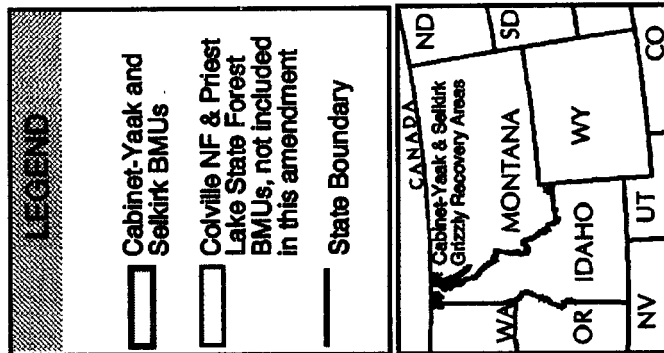


Table S-6 Specific Features of the Alternatives Considered in Detail

	A: No Action, Grizzly Bear Access Mgmt as of 11/30/98, before Interim Rule Set	B: Proposed Action, Interim Rule Set	C: Habitat Security Standards Applied Across All BMUs	E: Habitat Security Standards for Individual BMUs - Preferred Alternative
Linear Open Rd Density KNF	≤0.75 mi/sq.mi. by BMU and BAA	≤0.75 mi/sq.mi. by BMU and BAA	No standard	No standard
Linear Open Rd Density IPNF	No standard	No standard	No standard	No standard
Linear Open Rd Density LNF	≤1mi/sq. mi. by BMAA + grizzly bear management strategy	≤1mi/sq. mi. by BMAA plus grizzly bear management strategy	No standard	No standard
Habitat Effectiveness (Security)	≥70% per BMU, KNF ≥70 sq. mi. per BMU, IPNF, LNF - no standard	≥70% per BMU for all forests	No standard	No standard
Point Source Disturbance	Covered in Habitat Effectiveness	Covered in Habitat Effectiveness	Required	Required
Open Motorized Route Density (OMRD) (for all forests, unless specified)	KNF - No increase in density above current Forest Plan, no increase in open motorized trail density in affected BMUs IPNF - No standard LNF - No increase in density above current Forest Plan and grizzly bear management strategy and no increase in open motorized trails.	No net increase on Forest lands within recovery area	No more than 33% with density >1mile/sq. mile as measured by moving windows, no increase in OMRD til all BMUs in Recovery Zone meet standards for OMRD, TMRD, and Core. In BMUs not meeting OMRD, actions affecting OMRD must result in movement toward the standard and no net loss during project activities.	Numeric standard specific to each BMU. In BMUs not meeting their specific standard, projects affecting OMRD must result in post-project movement toward the standard.
Total Motorized Route Density, TMRD	No net increase in affected BMUs or subunits (KNF and LNF), N/A on IPNF	No net increase on Forest lands within recovery area	No more than 26% with density >2mile/sq. mi. as measured by moving windows. No increase in TMRD til all BMUs in Recovery Zone meet OMRD, TMRD, and Core. In BMUs not meeting TMRD, actions affecting TMRD must result in movement toward the standard and no net loss during project activities	Numeric standard specific to each BMU. In BMUs not meeting their specific standard, projects affecting TMRD must result post-project movement toward the standard.
Core Area	No net decrease in existing amount of core in affected BMUs, consider seasonal needs, flexibility to make major changes (KNF and LNF), no standard on IPNF.	No net loss on Federal ownership in all BMUs, 4 criteria for core established to replace lost existing core, work to achieve 55% in Priority 1 BMUs, consider seasonal needs, flexibility to make major changes	≥55% for each BMU, no decrease in BMUs currently >55% til all BMUs in a Recovery Zone meet OMRD, TMRD, and Core. Actions affecting core must result in increased core in BMUs now <55%, no net loss during project activities, implementation time frame required, consider seasonal needs, fixed in place for 10 years minimum	Numeric standard specific to each BMU. Consider seasonal needs; fixed in place for 10 years minimum. In BMUs not meeting their specific standard, projects affecting core must result in increased post-project core.
Administrative Use	121 trips KNF ² , 15 days IPNF, 14 days LNF	115 round trips divided by season	57 round trips, divided by season	57 round trips, divided by season
Habitat Based Access Mgmt	None on any forest	Explore habitat based access management approach	Participate in workgroup to pursue habitat based analysis	Participate in workgroup to pursue hab. analysis
Public Use Period-30 day	None	Allowed, if BMU meets criteria (≥55% core Priority 1 BMUs, ≥70% HE Priority 2 and 3 BMUs, seasonal habitats not impacted, only 1 gated road	Allowed, if BMU meets criteria (core ≥55%, important seasonal habitats will not be impacted, only 1 gated road system/year per BMU)	None

Alternatives Not Given Detailed Study

Alternative D – Increased Security Habitat

This alternative was developed in response to public comments calling on the Forest Service to go beyond the guidelines provided in the Interim Access Rule Set to provide additional habitat security for grizzly bears. In this alternative, standards for route densities and core area were established based on the highest security requirements of bears documented in the Grizzly Bear and Road Density Relationships in the Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak Recovery Zones (Wakkinen and Kasworm 1997). The values used in this alternative would be OMRD \leq 17 percent, TMRD \leq 14 percent, and Core Area \geq 72 percent rather than the average values (33-26-55) identified in the research report and used in Alternative C.

The Interdisciplinary Team commenced detailed study of this alternative until discovering it was not feasible to meet these standards within several BMUs. These BMUs did not have sufficient amounts of road under Forest Service jurisdiction to adequately reduce access to meet these standards. This alternative was determined to not be feasible to implement because of the lack of Forest Service jurisdiction on sufficient amounts of road.

Alternative F – Maintain Current Levels of Access

This alternative was designed to respond to comments requesting the Forest Service maintain the existing levels of closed and open roads on the landscape. It also responds to public comments asking for no additional road closures. The design of this alternative would be to “freeze” the current status as reported at the end of Bear Year 2000. Upon examination of the existing status of security parameters in the Selkirk/Cabinet-Yaak BMUs, it was determined that the present status did not fully meet any particular desired biological or social condition. The “freezing” of the present status would not provide an option that more fully resolved any of the biological or social concerns identified as significant issues. The Interdisciplinary Team fully considered this alternative but found it did not warrant detailed study.

Alternative G – Maximum Access

This alternative was developed in response to public comments requesting as much access as possible for recreation and economic activities in the three National Forests. The design of this alternative would require all currently gated roads to be opened.

This alternative did not meet important elements of the purpose and need for action and was not given detailed study. The overall purpose as stated in Chapter One is to “amend Forest Plans to include a set of motorized access and security guidelines to meet our responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act to conserve and contribute to recovery of grizzly bears”. Eliminating the existing gates on all restricted roads would not likely conserve and contribute to the recovery of grizzly bears within the recovery zones.

Other than access management and habitat improvement, the Forest Service has limited capabilities to affect changes that contribute to grizzly bear recovery. Without the ability to manage road access, other mitigation for grizzly bear security would need to be implemented, such as firearms restrictions or changes to hunting seasons. However, these options are outside the jurisdiction of the Forest Service and beyond the scope of this analysis.

This alternative was not given further detailed study in this analysis as it did not meet the purpose and need for action and would require actions beyond the jurisdiction of the Forest Service to conserve and contribute to the recovery of grizzly bears in the Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak Recovery Zones.

Issues Not Addressed in this Analysis

It is important to note this EIS is not proposing any actions associated with:

- Relocation or re-introduction of grizzly bears;
- Food storage orders
- Connectivity linkages between recovery zones
- The portions of the Selkirk Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone within the Colville National Forest.
- Hunting restrictions or regulations.

Also, this analysis and subsequent decision will not identify specific roads and trails affected, nor the types of closure devices for restricting road access. This is a programmatic decision which establishes broad objectives and standards for management. Decisions about management of individual roads or trails will be made at the project level, consistent with direction contained in the amended Forest Plans.

Comparison of the Effects of the Alternatives

The comparison of effects below is a summary of the conclusions presented in Chapter 3 of the FEIS. Effects common to all alternatives are not included in this table. A full discussion of the anticipated environmental effects of the alternatives is included in Chapter 3 of the FEIS.

Table S-7. Alternative Comparison

	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative E
Transportation				
Miles of Open Road changed to Reclaimed/Obliterated	0	1-7	105-145	33-44
Miles of Open Road Changed to Restricted	160-161	167-172	59-86	18-26
Miles of Restricted Road Changed to Reclaimed/Obliterated	0	138-190	399-564	334-470
Total miles of road status changes.	160-161	306-369	563-795	385-540
Wildlife				
Relative ranking for grizzly bears (1 = best) (see Tables 3-7 and 3-8)	4	3	2	1
Relative ranking for other T&E species (1 = best)	2	2	1	1
Relative ranking for sensitive species.	No impact	Beneficial impact	Beneficial impact	Beneficial impact
Relative ranking for MIS	Maintains habitat	Improves habitat	Improves habitat	Improves habitat
Recreation				
Effects to Motorized, Developed Recreation	No / little effect. Could impact 1 campground.	No / little effect. Could impact 1 campground.	Slight effects. Could impact up to 3 campgrds.	No / little effects.
Effects to Motorized, Dispersed, Summer Recreation	Greater effects. Major impacts in 3 BMUs.	Greater effects. Major impacts in 3 BMUs.	Greatest effects. Most roads closed but spread over larger area.	Slight effects. Least number of roads closed.
Effects to Motorized, Dispersed, Winter Recreation	No / little effect.	Greater effects.	Greatest effects.	Greater effects.
Effect to Non-Motorized, Dispersed, Summer Recreation	No / little effect	No / little effect	No / little effect	No / little effect
Effect to Non-Motorized, Dispersed, Winter Recreation	No / little effect	No / little effect	No / little effect	No / little effect

	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative E
Vegetation / Timber				
Reduction in Flexibility for Resource Management	No change from existing.	Low	High	Moderate
Reduction in Level of Administrative Access	No change from existing	Low	High	Moderate
Effect on Management Access to Regenerated Acreage for Silvicultural Treatments	No change from existing	Low	High	High
Fire, Fuels, Air Quality				
Rating of Increased Fire Risk	Low	Low	High	Moderate
Level of Effect to Access for Fire Suppression	Low	Low	High	Moderate
Water and Fisheries				
Change from Existing Level of Effects to Bull Trout	No change from existing.	No change from existing.	Greatest likelihood for negative effects.	Increased likelihood for negative effects.
Change from Existing Level of Effects to Sensitive Fish Species	No change from existing.	No change from existing.	Greatest likelihood for negative effects.	Increased likelihood for negative effects.
Social and Economic				
Level of Effect on Social Environment	Very Low	Low	High	Moderate
Area Economy – Recreation Jobs and Income	No Change	No Change	No Change	No Change
Area Economy – Timber Jobs and Income	No Change	Lowest Decrease	Highest Decrease	Decrease
Area Economy – Road Reclamation Jobs and Income	No Change	Lowest Temporary Increase	Highest Temporary Increase	Temporary Increase
Area Economy – Payments to Counties	No Effect	No Effect	No Effect	No Effect